

## PORTO RICO.

BY W. B. STRAYER.

For The Shenandoah Herald.  
(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

They have three meals per day, and the first is called "coffee"; it consists of a cup of coffee, bread and butter and one fried egg; at 12:30 p. m. you will get a good square meal, and this they call "breakfast"; dinner at about 5:30 or 6:00 p. m., is also a good meal. The butter is imported and usually sells at from forty to fifty cents per pound. No butter is made on the island. With one whiff you can blow all of the cream which rises on a crock of milk over night to the opposite side of the crock. The milk is usually boiled as soon as milked, and butter is not considered, the more important point being to keep the milk from souring, and this is accomplished by the boiling.

The only ice available is the manufactured article, and only a few of the towns or cities have factories for making it. Americans and most of the well-to-do natives either filter or boil drinking water.

Yellow fever has never been epidemic upon the island, although there are cases occasionally.

Under Spain's rule grave yards had an enclosure without a roof for human bones, and these were the bones of those who had been buried, the grave rent not having been paid at the end of the year. This ground was then ready for the next corpse and upon the same conditions, viz., that the grave rent be paid annually or else the bones will be exhumed and placed in the roofless house and exposed to the elements. This custom has been abolished by the United States government.

The peon is generally carried to the grave in a coffin borne upon the heads of four men, and then if his coffin has been paid for, coffin and corpse will both be placed in the grave, otherwise the coffin is returned to the undertaker, and by him held in readiness for the next corpse. No women are ever seen in the funeral procession.

As a race the people are smaller than the people of the U. S.—you will see five or six small men to one here. They are excitable and are great politicians, and for two men to differ politically means bad feeling which may crop out at any time, at any place and in any manner.

The police system is different from ours, and, with the exception of two or three towns, the actual bona fide resident of a city cannot be elected to police duty in that city; each city gets its police from the "Insular Police Force." The resident police made a poor record when allowed to do duty in their own town or neighborhood, and the system is to be changed. The "Insular Police" is composed of something like seven hundred men, with a chief at the head. These men are enlisted for two years, and assignments are made by the chief to the various towns and cities; they are not allowed to spend the whole of their enlistment at any one place.

Beggars are allowed to come to San Juan every Saturday, but generally Friday afternoon will find many of them in the city.

The railroad accommodations are very poor and there is only one steam railroad on the island, originally intended to belt the island, but up to this time only built in a few sections. It is a narrow gauge road. In addition to this narrow gauge road, which comes into San Juan, there is an electric road from San Juan to Rio Piedras, eight miles distant.

Coamo Springs, on the South side of the mountains, is a great health resort and many wonderful cures are claimed for its waters—these are hot springs, and are said to be efficacious in many diseases, particularly rheumatism.

The climate is healthful. No one seems to know anything about sun strokes, for hot as the sun shines, if you go to the shade of a tree the cool sea breeze will soon dispel the heat.

Cutlery will rust easily, and clothing will mould in the drawers of your bureau unless frequently aired during the wet season.

Ants are uncomfortable numerous, and any food kept from one meal to another is likely to attract swarms of them, unless the legs of the refrigerator in which it is kept are set in cups of water. The housekeeper is not troubled much with flies, but there are fleas galore and enough mosquitoes to require no quito bars over the beds; tarantulas and centipeds are sometimes seen, but no poisonous snakes; very little game is to be found, and there are very few birds and flowers; but the finest display of beautiful foliage plants imaginable.

Fruits are claiming their share of American money which is coming to the island, and are especially in favor with the small capitalist who cannot invest in a sugar

plantation; for the machinery of a sugar plantation is very expensive and the cost runs up into the hundreds of thousands of dollars; but there are numbers of sugar plantations on the island, and during the grinding season, the cane finds its way from the field to the mill in small low cars, for which a temporary track of steel is laid from the mill to the field right up to where the men work, an extra section being added to the track whenever necessary to bring the cars to the laborers, for the cars must keep up with the laborers so they can put the cane thereon. The cars are brought to and from the field by oxen, and work of this kind goes on for several months of each year on the big plantations; these big mills also buy cane from the small farmer. One planting of cane will last for several years. No sugar is refined on the island; this is imported from the United States. Brown, or coffee sugar, raw sugar as it is termed commercially, is the product of the mills, and this is sold in the United States where it is refined. Molasses and rum are also products of the sugar mills, and rum is sold at all of the groceries, and is a part of the laborer's daily ration; it is cheap, and ten cents worth taken inwardly will make the average American stop work for the balance of that day, but you rarely ever see a native drunk.

The native pays from two and a half to two and three quarter cents per pound for the brown or coffee sugar which he uses. There are numbers of groceries along the road ways, ten or fifteen dollars being sufficient to start one.

Oranges, pomelos (grape fruit), lemons, limes, bananas, guavas, pine apples and numbers of other fruits, many of them unknown to United States trade generally, but highly appreciated on the island and grow luxuriantly almost everywhere, and you can find fruit in abundance any month of the year.

The cocoanut bears in several years from the time the nut is planted, and the time it first begins to bear, up to the age of seventy five years it will always have fruit upon it in some stage of its growth, and most of this time it will have ripe nuts as well as green ones and nuts just starting—all at the same time. That which we see in our markets is the ripened nut, and the milk in it has neither the flavor nor the quality nor the quantity that is known in Porto Rico, for there you drink it in every stage permissible, from the time the first gelatine condition of the meat begins, to the time it begins to harden and form the ripened nut of commerce.

The milk in the nut is more in quantity while the gelatine condition obtains, and before the milk is absorbed into the meat of the nut, or to be plainer before it is ripe. The price is the same for the nut "dry" as the ripe nut is called, or for the "coco de agua" which is the name given to the nut before ripe and in that state when best suited to be used as a drink. Two to three cents each is the usual price. It is a cool refreshing drink and is much indulged in by all classes. The amount of milk will vary according to size of the nut and the stage of ripeness—a half pint to a pint and more per nut—and it is usually drunk out of the nut by making an opening in one end with the machete about the size of a silver quarter of a dollar or the silver half dollar.

The banana is always in evidence and its season is also every day of the year; it fruits in a year from the first planting. Limes are to be had the year round also. Oranges can be had for about nine months of the year, but the shipping of oranges commences about November the first, and is done with by March the first of each year. Setting out orange groves promises to be a great industry there and this fruit is as fine as anywhere in the world. At the present price of land and labor a grove will cost from \$200 to \$250 per acre, according to location, and it will be five years before any dividend will be yours.

No finer pine apples can be grown anywhere than in Porto Rico, and it requires eighteen months from the time of planting to the first crop harvest, and afterwards for five or six years there will be a crop each year.

Very little has been done in market gardening, and ventures in this line will be limited until some method is devised by means of which to overcome the "chango", a most destructive pest to garden plants.

The change of money from the Spanish to the American currency caused much confusion and inconvenience, not to say hardship, for awhile, but United States money is understood now and all seem satisfied.

The organic law of the island provides that all taxes in the aggregate shall not exceed in amount 1 per cent. of the assessed value of the property which is taxed, and there are no tariff charges between Porto Rico and

the United States, in other words, the trade conditions are the same as between the different States of the U. S. The United States has also done away with the Export Tax levied by Spain upon the products of Porto Rico which were shipped from this island to other countries.

A steamboat leaves New York every Saturday for Porto Rico, and it requires from four to five days to make the trip according to the boat on which you take passage, and there is no stop after leaving New York until arrival at San Juan. The accommodations are good on all of these boats. There is also a steamship line between New Orleans and San Juan, and one between Cuba and San Juan; there are lines also from France, Spain and Venezuela, to say nothing of some freight steamships from the Sates and the "tramp" steamers. These "tramp" steamers are ships that trade among the numerous islands, having no regular schedules, and no wharf privileges; they will anchor in the harbor or sea, and whatever they get in the way of trade is taken from the shore to the vessel in lighters—small open boats of light draft.

Many parties who come to the island for a good look at it, do not trust to the public conveyances for getting from place to place, but instead take the plan of buying a few ponies which they will dispose of after completing the tour and find this arrangement better than to trust to the uncertainty of hiring a horse or team at the various places, for much of the tour is necessarily on horseback anyhow, and to get a good pony at the outset is not only a saving of time and patience, but is cheaper and more comfortable. No mare is ever used under the saddle, or in any vehicle except by the peon, and every member of the party will ride a stallion. No gentler or more tractable horses can be found anywhere than those of Porto Rico; like the cattle they are generally tethered in their pastures.

When America took charge in 1898 it was found that many of the laws were laws only in name, rendered ineffective by the corruption of Government officials. Arbitrary methods obtained as to the levying and collection of taxes, and the records of titles to property, were in a muddle and kept so for the purpose of exacting extortionate fees for putting them in proper shape. But this order of things has been changed; today corruption is run down wherever found; American capital has followed American laws, and in a few years this island, fertile of soil and favored by nature, will flourish and blossom into a land of progress and plenty.

**The Wastes of the Body.**  
Every seven days the blood, muscles and bones of a man of average size loses two pounds of waste tissue. This waste must be replenished and the health and strength kept up without perfect digestion. When the stomach and digestive organs fail to perform their functions, the strength lets down, health gives away, and disease sets up. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure enables the stomach and digestive organs to digest and assimilate all of the wholesome food that may be eaten into the kind of blood that rebuilds the tissues and protects the health and strength of the mind and body. Kodol cures indigestion, dyspepsia and all stomach troubles. It is an ideal spring tonic. Sold by L. R. Irwin.

**Take Your Choice.**  
Drink milk and get typhoid. Drink whisky and get the jaundice. Eat soap and get Bright's disease. Eat meat and encourage apoplexy. Eat oysters and acquire tetanus. Eat vegetables and weaken the system. Eat dessert and take to presia. Smoke cigars and get catarrh. Drink coffee and obtain nervous prostration. Drink wine and get the goat. In order to be entirely healthy one must eat nothing, drink nothing, smoke nothing and even before breathing one should see that the air is properly sterilized.—Southwestern World.

**Proverb Smashed.**  
"You can never run the mill with the water that has passed," said the person who quotes.  
"Oh, no; but just reflect that it that water stayed by the mill wheel, instead of passing, it wouldn't run the mill at all!"

**Managing Editor—Well, what's the matter now?**  
Assistant—The beauty editor is away and a woman writes to know what to do with a wrinkle in her forehead.  
Managing Editor—Tell her to pat it up and forget it.—Inland Printer.

A Dutchman was relating his marvelous escape from death, when 13 of his companions were drowned by the upsetting of a boat and he alone was saved.  
"And how did you escape their fate?" asked one of his hearers.  
"I did not go in to eat," was the Dutchman's placid reply.

Hasst—It's strange you're so hard up, old man. I thought you owned half of Swampburg, and had lots to sell?  
Raddit—I have; but what I want is lots to eat.—Towa and Country.

Col'd cash in the pocket often warms the heart.

## A Tale of Two Mules.

A wealthy man has a big farm down near Alton, Ill., in which he is greatly interested. It is a place of 300 acres and a big German is actively in charge of it.

Among the animals on the place last spring were a pair of big brown mules. They were splendid animals, but were getting a bit old.

"You'd better sell that span of mules and get some younger ones," the Chicago man told his farmer. Then he went to Europe.

The farmer took the mules down to the St. Louis market and sold them for \$180. It happened that farm work was slack just then, so he put off buying a team till a month later.

Then he went back to St. Louis and asked to be shown a good team of big mules—he would prefer brown.

They showed him a strapping team of brown mules that were full of life and fire. The price was \$240. He paid it and took the mules back to the farm near Alton. When the purchases were taken to the barn each of them went at once to its old stall.

St. Louis is a deceitful town.

**\$100—Dr. E. Detchons Anti-Diabetic** may be worth to you more than \$100 if you have a child who soils bedding from incontinence of water during sleep. Cures old and young alike. It arrests the trouble at once. \$1. Sold by L. R. Irwin, Druggist, Woodstock, Va. March 5-6m.

Smith—Wish I could get a better position for my son.  
Jones—What's he doing?  
Smith—Clanking in a grocery.  
Jones—Better let well enough alone. He will make his weight in the world.

Ich on human cured in 30 minutes by Woodford's Sanitary Lotion. This never fails. Sold by L. R. Irwin Druggist, March 6-3m.

Father (trying to read)—What's that terrible racket in the hall?  
Mother—One of the children just fell down the stairs.

Father—Well, you tell the children if they can't fall down stairs quietly they will have to stop.

"I admire that pianist's finish. Don't you?"  
"Yes, but I always dread his beginning."

"No, my son, you must never talk back to the milkman; not polite."  
"Yes, mummy, he makes every one take water, doesn't he?"

## CASTORIA

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She—Gertrude says she will never marry until she finds her ideal.

He—What is her ideal?  
She—Oh, any man who will ask her.—Kansas City Journal.

"He certainly put his heart into his work."  
"Yes, but he has such a weak 'eat'—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Annual Meeting German Baptist Brethren, Bellefontaine, O.

The Norfolk & Western Ry. will sell excursion tickets May 20 to June 1 tickets limited to June 1st. By depositing ticket with Agent Bellefontaine, O., extension can be had to June 2nd. No fee required. On May 20th through cars will be run from stations on and from Valley Division and Ocean Beach. Write for rates. M. F. Dray, W. B. Boyd, G. P. A., Roanoke, Va.

## A Weak Stomach

Indigestion is often caused by overeating. An eminent authority says the harm done thus exceeds that from the excessive use of alcohol. Eat the food you want but don't overload the stomach. A weak stomach may refuse to digest what you eat. Then you need a good digestant like Kodol, which digests your food without the stomach's aid. This rest and the wholesome tonics Kodol contains soon restore health. Dieting unnecessary. Kodol quickly relieves the feeling of fullness and bloating from which some people suffer after meals. Absolutely cures indigestion.

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**Strange Animal Friendship.**  
Pathetic instances are told of strange friendships between animals in captivity. A curious incident occurred in New Orleans some years ago, when a bear was lowered into the cage of an old African lion. The keepers supposed it would be torn to pieces, and many people assembled to see the barbarous exhibition. The bear at once assumed the offensive and rushed at the lion, but to the amazement of onlookers, the lion, hitherto regarded as extremely savage and dangerous, placed his paw upon the bear's head as if to express his pity and tried to make friends with him.

Taking the bear under his protection, the lion suffered no one to approach the cage and did not sleep until he was exhausted, so closely did he watch over his new friend. He even allowed him to share his food.

The two animals would lie down side by side, the lion usually with a protective paw over the bear. His delight in companionship was manifested unmistakably, and his captors were amazed enough to let the two share the same cage.—Kansas City Independent.



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His unusual talent soon brought him reputation and prominence. First he was elected to the professorship of anatomy and surgery in the Vermont University. Next he was appointed lecturer in Dartmouth College. The following year he was chosen to the most important professorship in the country, a place that he occupied when he made his world-famed discovery of Paine's Celery Compound.

This infallible cure for those fearful fits that result from an impaired nervous system and impure blood, has endeared the great doctor to the world.

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## Crabs and Earthquakes.

For some time previous to the day upon which the great Chilean earthquake of August, 1897, occurred great swarms of crabs of an unknown variety were seen in the bay of Valparaiso. They all appeared to be greatly excited and were literally climbing over each other in their efforts to escape the impending calamity.

How they knew that the earthquake was collecting its strength to desolate the coast is more than man can say, but that they knew something material was about to happen there is no doubt whatever.

That there were millions of them may be inferred from the report of Dr. Forbes, who says that "on the day after the earthquake the dead crabs were thrown upon the beach in a wall-like line three or four feet wide along the whole extent of the bay."

## Barber Shop Moved.

I have moved my barber shop to the room lately occupied by G. H. Phillips under Lewis's Drug Store. All those who favor me with their patronage will receive prompt and respectful attention. Respectfully, JOHN McFEE.

## THE GREAT ELECTIONEER-WILKES' STALLION

SUPREMACY, 18323.

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**SUPREMACY** is one of the best bred trotting stallions living. His sire is Belmont, (sire of \$30,000 at 2 years old, a full brother to Chimes 2304 sire of The Abbot 2,034 [the world's leading record] and 85 others in 2,290, a son of Electioneer 125 [sire of 109 in 2,300 list] and Beautiful Bells 2294, [dam of 11 in 2,300] and his dam is the dam of 5 in 2,300. Supremacy's dam is a sister to Allen Lowe 2,12 [sire of 82 in 2,300] and Alma Mater, 100 in 2,331, a son of George Wilkes 2,32, [sire of 82 in 2,300] and Alma Mater, 100 in 2,331. His 31 dam a half sister to Nancy Hanks, 2,04 and is dam of 4 in 2,300, and 3 better than 2,20, also has 3 stallions' sons, sire of 2,300 performers, 31 dam, dam of Nettie 2,18, &c. This is great breeding stock. Ask for full pedigree.

## DESCRIPTION:

**SUPREMACY** is a rich Mahogany Bay, he stands high and weighs 10 lbs. For style, speed and conformation, he is unsurpassed. He is of fine feet and legs like a stallion, and he is just what must be expected, as true as they could possibly be. He is a natural born trotter, perfectly balanced and requires no artificial appliances. That he will produce early and extreme speed with uniformity there can be no question of doubt. His individuality renders him valuable also as a producer of first class stallions and horses adapted to all uses. No responsibility for accident. Parting with name forfeit insurance.

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**ATTENTION, FARMERS AND BREEDERS**—The fine stallion Supremacy will be at Mr. Wm. Randolph's, a few miles South of Strasburg on every other Monday, and will stop at Edinburg and Mt. Jackson on the way to New Market the following week. Write for particulars.

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## The Tale of a Tail.

A writer in tracing the ancestry of the dog to wolf and jackal notices typical differences in the case of their eyes, their body colors and markings, the habit of turning around before lying down and other interesting peculiarities, but he does not mention the most striking and infallible way of distinguishing them—namely, by the fashion in which they carry their tails.

Wolves and coyotes have a sneaking way of carrying their tails low, almost dragging on the ground, while dogs carry their tails up, and the farther moved they are from the feral type the higher they carry them. Shepherds and collies, which retain many of their racial characteristics, carry their tails lowest of all setters and pointers a degree or two higher, stiffening out straight when drawing on game; terriers and hounds elevate their tails to the spinal line; St. Bernards and Newfoundlanders affect a curve over the back, while pugs actually come to a full twist. An old plainsman could tell a wolf or coyote as far as he could see him, and in buffalo days this was a most useful indication of buffalo herds being not far away. These predatory creatures always followed a moving herd—Forest and Stream.

## Sleep Methods.

It is said that hours of sleep can be regulated by two simple methods: First, never allow yourself to be awakened, but insist on being undisturbed; second, get up the minute you are awake. The hours of sleep will soon become adapted to the requirements of your constitution.

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